



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions
Board of Nursing

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Memorandum

TO: Carolynne H. Stevens, Director
Division of Licensing Programs
Department of Social Services

FROM: Corinne F. Dorsey, R.N. *Corinne F. Dorsey*

DATE: October 2, 1990

In response to your request, the Virginia Board of Nursing considered the question of whether or not a licensed nurse should prepare medications ahead of time for subsequent administration to residents of adult homes by unlicensed persons. As the Board meeting on September 24-26, 1990, the following statement was adopted unanimously:

In homes for adults licensed by the Department of Social Services, drugs which are normally self-administered, may be given to residents by unlicensed persons in accordance with § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia. Drugs which are not normally self-administered must be administered to residents by a licensed health care professional. The acts of preparation of the drugs and the administration of the drugs must be reasonably contemporaneous in time. To do otherwise would result in two distinct acts and may fall within the legal definition of dispensing and thus, the practice of pharmacy.